

Claims

I claim:

1 1. A method for fulfilling at least one need
2 comprising:
3 receiving at least one request;
4 identifying a plurality of markets that
5 are capable of fulfilling said request;
6 requesting at least one offer to fulfill
7 said request from at least one entity within said
8 identified markets; and
9 communicating at least a portion of said
10 offers to a party making the request.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein markets
2 capable of fulfilling similar needs are identified.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 facilitating a transaction between said party making
3 the request and at least one of said entities within
4 said identified markets.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the identity of
2 said party making the request is withheld for a period
3 of time from said entities within said identified
4 markets.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said offers are
2 made through an open auction.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said offers are
2 made through a sealed auction.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said offers are
2 made through a series of negotiations.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said offers are
2 made through a posting of a price.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said offers are
2 offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the offered prices.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived quality of the goods or services
4 being offered.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the type of goods or services being offered.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived reliability of said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived optimum solution to the
4 fulfillment of said request.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said
2 identification is accomplished in part by translating
3 terms of art contained within said request.

1 16. A system for fulfilling at least one need
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving at least one
4 request;
5 means for identifying a plurality of
6 markets that are capable of fulfilling said request;
7 means for requesting at least one offer
8 to fulfill said request from entities within said
9 identified markets; and
10 means for communicating at least a
11 portion of said offers to a party making the request.

1 17. The system of claim 16, further comprising
2 means for identifying markets capable of fulfilling
3 similar needs to that requested.

1 18. The system of claim 16, further comprising
2 means for facilitating a transaction between said party
3 making the request and at least one of said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 19. The system of claim 18 further comprising
2 means for withholding the identity of said party making
3 the request for a period of time from said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 20. The system of claim 16 further comprising
2 means for said offers to be made through an open
3 auction.

1 21. The system of claim 16 further comprising
2 means for said offers to be made through a sealed
3 auction.

1 22. The system of claim 16 further comprising
2 means for said offers to be made through a series of
3 negotiations.

1 23. The system of claim 16 further comprising
2 means for said offers to be made through a posting of a
3 price.

1 24. The system of claim 16 wherein said offers
2 are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 25. The system of claim 16 wherein said means for
2 communicating at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the offered prices.

1 26. The system of claim 16 wherein said means for
2 communicating at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived quality of the goods or services
4 being offered.

1 27. The system of claim 16 wherein said means for
2 communicating at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the type of goods or services being offered.

1 28. The system of claim 16 wherein said means for
2 communicating at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived reliability of said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 29. The system of claim 16 wherein said means for
2 communicating at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived optimum solution to the
4 fulfillment of said request.

1 30. The method of claim 16 further comprising
2 means for said identification to be accomplished in
3 part by translating terms of art contained within said
4 request.

1 31. A need fulfillment optimization system
2 comprising:
3 a memory for storing data comprising
4 market profiles; and
5 a central processing unit coupled to
6 said memory, said central processing unit being capable
7 of:
8 receiving at least one request;
9 identifying a plurality of markets
10 that are capable of fulfilling said request;
11 requesting at least one offer to
12 fulfill said request from at least one entity within
13 said identified markets; and
14 communicating at least a portion of
15 said offers to a party making the request.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein said
2 processing unit is further capable of identifying
3 markets capable of fulfilling similar needs.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein said
2 processing unit is further capable of facilitating a
3 transaction between said party making the request and
4 at least one of said entities within said identified
5 markets.

1 34. The system of claim 33 wherein said
2 processing unit is further capable of withholding the
3 identity of said party making the request for a period
4 of time from said entities within said identified
5 markets.

1 35. The system of claim 31 wherein said offers
2 are made through an open auction.

1 36. The system of claim 31 wherein said offers
2 are made through a sealed auction.

1 37. The system of claim 31 wherein said offers
2 are made through a series of negotiations.

1 38. The system of claim 31 wherein said offers
2 are made through a posting of a price.

1 39. The system of claim 31 wherein said offers
2 are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 40. The system of claim 41 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the offered prices.

1 41. The system of claim 31 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived quality of the goods or services
4 being offered.

1 42. The system of claim 31 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the type of goods or services being offered.

1 43. The system of claim 31 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived reliability of said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 44. The system of claim 31 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived optimum solution to the
4 fulfillment of said request.

1 45. The system of claim 31 wherein said
2 identification is accomplished in part by translating
3 terms of art contained within said request.

1 46. A computer program for fulfilling at least
2 one need comprising:
3 code for receiving at least one request;
4 code for identifying a plurality of
5 markets that are capable of fulfilling said request;
6 code for requesting at least one offer
7 to fulfill said request from at least one entity within
8 said identified markets; and

9 code for communicating at least a
10 portion of said offers to a party making the request.

1 47. The computer program of claim 46, further
2 comprising code for identifying markets capable of
3 fulfilling similar needs.

1 48. The computer program of claim 46, further
2 comprising code for facilitating a transaction between
3 said party making the request and at least one of said
4 entities within said identified markets.

1 49. The computer program of claim 48 further
2 comprising code for withholding the identity of said
3 party making the request for a period of time from said
4 entities within said identified markets.

1 50. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 offers are made through an open auction.

1 51. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 offers are made through a sealed auction.

1 52. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 offers are made through a series of negotiations.

1 53. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 offers are made through a posting of a price.

1 54. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 55. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the offered prices.

1 56. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived quality of the goods or services
4 being offered.

1 57. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the type of goods or services being offered.

1 58. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived reliability of said entities
4 within said identified markets.

1 59. The computer program of claim 46 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes the perceived optimum solution to the
4 fulfillment of said request.

1 60. The computer program of claim 46 further
2 comprising code for said identification to be
3 accomplished in part by translating terms of art
4 contained within said request.